



Alumni Newsletter

FALL RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS from Jack Hall

November 1, 2010



Henry Blackaby and Wendell Webb (son-in-law)

"Our Fall Getaway was a special treat for all of us this year. Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God*, was our speaker. We had over 170 students, staff, and alumni and their families who attended this year as we met in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. Dr. Blackaby delivered a hard challenge to be completely His as a servant is to his master. He repeatedly emphasized the importance of the Word and deeply meditating on it in order to fully experience our God and Savior's indwelling influence.

Here are a few thoughts from one of the students who attended, "Going on the Fall Retreat with Campus Ventures was a complete and utter blessing which I know will continue to impact my life forever. Several times at retreat we sang a song called *You Won't Relent* by Misty Edwards. In this song the lyrics say "You won't relent until You have it all". Going into the weekend of retreat, and having recently turned 21, I was faced with a whole new set of challenges. My biggest struggle was deciding who I was going to live for. It was like I was fighting my hardest to live with one foot following God and the other in the world. Several times I would say sorry to God, and then go back to the doing the same thing. When I heard this song at retreat, along with the preaching of Henry Blackaby, it was very obvious to me that I needed to make a decision as to who I would follow. And in the face of such a wonderful, living love I could not deny my Savior any longer and I committed to giving God my all. I am more than thankful for the chance to go to retreat and that God used it to change my life for good." -- Allison Puckett

Thank you to all who continue to invest in the kingdom work of Campus Ventures as we seek to influence students with the Truth of God's Word."

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Campus Snapshots . . . God is Drawing

Marissa (Northwest College)

During the 1st week of the fall semester, a new girl from Idaho approached Mary Carter, one of the directors at NWC, to ask a very direct question. She said, "I don't know if you do anything like this, but would you be willing to disciple me?" This is not a question we get everyday since we are the ones usually asking the students. After Mary recovered from her shock, she gladly accepted the proposition.

Cody's Freshmen (UW)

Three weeks into the new semester Cody Johnson had his first discipleship group meeting with 3 freshmen. He made the weekly assignment, gave them a challenge and prayed for them. The next week they returned to the meeting with a profound response, "Cody, this was great stuff, and we loved the assignment, but it was too easy. Would you give us something more challenging?" Again, not something we usually hear from students, but gladly accepted by Cody.

Discipleship Groups

At the end of the Spring Semester, Dave & Janelle Weeks, directors at Casper College, delivered a challenge to sign up for discipleship groups in the Fall. Twenty-nine students signed up. At the beginning of the Fall Semester they gave the challenge again to the incoming freshmen. Another 29 signed up. Casper College has never had so many involved in these groups.
PTL!!



Meet Jen Steele - Intern

The ministry of Campus Ventures focuses on fulfilling the Great Commission through training students with specific skills and developing values in order to reflect the character of our Lord Jesus. After a student has graduated and completed the discipleship program that we offer, we invite some of them to participate in our internship program. It is a 1-2 year process that provides the intern with further training in ministry skills and gives them an opportunity to explore full-time vocational ministry. I want to introduce one of our staff interns this year: Jen Steele. She is serving at the University of Wyoming and also works part-time at a local horse barn.



Hello, I'm Jen Steele and am interning at the University of Wyoming with Campus Ventures. This is my second year on staff (1st year full time), and am excited to be a part of God's work here on campus. It is amazing to see His plans come to fruition in the time I've interned. One of the most recent happenings is one of the young women I've been ministering to at a local horse barn (horse training is a hobby of mine) recently accepted Christ as her Lord and has been attending CV regularly. I've also started leading a Discipleship Group this year, where God is revealing Himself in amazing ways. My first year leading D-group was discouraging, as the girls were not very committed. This year the group appeared to be an odd mix of girls and I was praying that they would be able to work well together. Our first few meetings blew me away; these young women are loving and accepting of each other and are hungry for God's Word. The group is meeting every Monday and they are such a joy to lead. I am ready to see what is in store for this faithful group of girls as we step out in faith. Finally, it has been incredible to see the students in our ministry here grow into a family. They are starting to see the need for relationship and serving each other. Our Leadership Team boys even made dinner for the LT girls this past month! I am so blessed to be part of God's activity here in Laramie.

What's He Doing Now? By Dave Medders

This probably was a thought some of Jesus' followers either kept to themselves or discussed among themselves (when Jesus was off casting out some demon). I mean really, who stops on their way to Jerusalem for an important deal that has been on the "to do list" for some time and decides to heal a blind guy? That would be Jesus who saw the Father at work and joined him...on the way to Jerusalem.

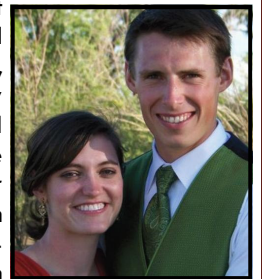
One interruption is maybe understandable but later on the same road...Jesus does it again with a short dude in a tree. And maybe those following Jesus began to understand that discipleship is for everyone and ministry takes place where God is working. Zack was glad Jesus' methods were different than the other religious type.

Isaiah 55:8 Word on the Street version "My thoughts are totally other compared to your thoughts. My methods aren't in any of your manuals. My ideas and your ideas, my methods and your methods are light years apart."

Made any new entries lately in your discipleship manual as to how to help others follow Jesus?

Student Testimony

Since his departure from direct campus ministry to leading the directors of Campus Ventures, Jack has been praying for at least one college student to meet with one-on-one. This semester God has answered that prayer through a senior at Black Hills State. His name is John Enos, and it has been so exciting to see God work through this young man. The Holy Spirit has been moving John to share the gospel with his peers on campus. He meets with our local intern to pray several times each week. He and his wife have started a soccer club in order to develop relationships with non-believers. He has had multiple opportunities to share Jesus, and several students are interested. In addition, God put on his heart to approach the principals at the local middle school and high school to get permission to be on campus during meal times. He was enthusiastically received, given permission and a free meal any time he needed it. God has already used John to connect with some that were isolated as well as gathering other students to pray and share the gospel with their peers. Pray that God would continue to bring glory to Himself through John.



How Your Donations to the FCD General Budget are Used:

Thank you to all of you who contribute directly to the FCD General Budget. We at the FCD administrative office are committed to a lean operation in order to use your gifts towards God's work as efficiently as possible.

As you may know, FCD maintains one central administrative office to oversee the legal, financial, and tax-related obligations of operating a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This frees our campus staff to focus on God's work in the lives of students. The FCD General Budget funds provide for a physical office location, training & support for our CV directors and associate staff, Dave Medders' salary, and wages for the administrative staff who process donations, distribute payroll, and complete other business-related tasks. (Compensation for the FCD Director, Jack Hall, is raised through his own supporters and is not part of the FCD General Budget funds.)

20% of our operating budget comes from internal support through our CV Directors and staff. Another 5% is received through our ministry and theological assistance programs. But a full 80% is obtained through your financial contributions to the FCD General Budget. If you have any further questions, please call the office any time at 605-722-4323 or e-mail us at FCD@rushmore.com.

